

out great hope for lasting peace and justice in the long troubled north of Ireland. The Irish and peace loving people all over the world were joyous last November 29th when the new Northern Ireland power sharing executive was finally formed and the British government devolved most of home rule to Belfast. Along with the Northern Ireland assembly, north/south and east/west bodies, the future of all of the island of Ireland was bright for peaceful democratic change in the unsatisfactory status quo that has long been the north of Ireland. The Good Friday accord supported by the people of both the north and south of Ireland was finally being implemented and change was to come through democratic means and new power sharing institutions.

It was a step backwards in the search for lasting peace and justice in the north of Ireland when the British Government on February 11, 2000 suspended the power sharing institutions that had been the best chance to produce overall change in the north, including decommissioning.

Regrettably, the Irish peace process since February 11, 2000 is once again in crisis. The most recent announcement that the IRA is withdrawing from their efforts with the arms decommissioning body is another body blow to a fragile and tenuous future in the north of Ireland.

Even after positive steps were being made to resolve the arms issue—the IRA had committed to put them beyond use—the old unionist veto by the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) forced the suspension of power sharing under the threat of resignation by the UUP's First Minister, David Trimble from the new local government. Terms of the Good Friday Accord set out simultaneous time frames for removal of the guns on both sides from Irish politics.

Those who have unilaterally changed its terms and exercised a veto over its operation must explain their intransigence, and be held accountable for failing to carry out the terms of the Good Friday peace accord.

In order to create the climate for arms decommissioning as envisioned by the terms of the Good Friday Accord, power-sharing institutions must be reestablished, sooner rather than later.

The accord itself set a mid-May 2000 time frame for good faith efforts by all sides at getting all of arms decommission in the North Ireland. Regrettably, the institutions that should have been in place for the last 18 months has only been up and running for just the last 10 weeks. Now they have been suspended.

We soon will have the marching season again in the north of Ireland. We cannot let the political vacuum in the north go on indefinitely. We need the political institutions up and running so change can come peacefully through democratic means. Only then can we expect the political process that the Good Friday accord set in motion can help make the guns on both sides in the north, both irrelevant, and unnecessary.

The parties need to get back to the table and fully implement the Good Friday Accord. As Senator George Mitchell has wisely said, history might forgive the failure to reach an agreement in the long conflict over Northern Ireland, but will never forgive the failure to implement one that has been agreed upon by

both governments and all of the parties in the long troubled region.

Let us, on this St. Patrick's Day, hope and pray for a united, peaceful Ireland.

HONORING THE TORRANCE MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Torrance Memorial Medical Center, and important facility within my district. The largest community hospital in the area, Torrance Memorial is currently celebrating its 75th anniversary.

For 75 years, the Torrance Memorial Medical Center has played an integral role in the health and welfare of the South Bay and Peninsula communities. The medical center has come a long way since it first opened its doors in 1925. More babies were delivered and more patients were admitted during the last quarter of 1999 than during its first ten years in operation.

With 380 beds, the Torrance facility is widely recognized as one of the most technologically advanced private hospitals in the regions. A leader in the health care industry, Torrance Memorial specializes in acute care, particularly in the areas of cardiology, cancer treatment, burn treatment, and neonatal care. The center has provided first rate medical care to tens of thousands of local residents throughout the years.

Torrance Memorial is an active member of the community. It is a pioneer in prevention, education, and community services providing classes, lectures, daycare, and physician referrals to help the residents of the South Bay and surrounding communities play a greater role in their own health.

I commend the staff and volunteers of the Torrance Memorial Medical Center for providing such outstanding care, and I congratulate them on this milestone. The South Bay is grateful for your services.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA CAMPBELL GLENN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring a woman of remarkable accomplishments, Patricia Campbell Glenn, who has earned a reputation as an outstanding public servant.

As the Regional Director of the United States Department of Justice, Community Relations Service in Region II consisting of New York, New Jersey, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, her agency is responsible for the mediation of all community-based racial and ethnic disputes. Ms. Glenn has the distinction of being the only female director in the coun-

try. During her tenure at the Department, she was deputized as a special U.S. Marshall in Conway County, Arkansas; she mediated systemic issues cases in federal correctional facilities, and she mediated disputes between Native Americans and the federal government. In 1996, she was selected to direct the National Arson Task Force in Washington, D.C. for the Community Relations Service. The Task Force had the direct responsibility for the resolution of all disputes related to the arson of churches. Ms. Glenn has conducted Hate Crime training with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center out of Glynnco, Georgia since 1992, the U.S. Trustees, Bankruptcy Courts, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Secret Service, Uniform Division.

Her impressive achievements include being selected as one of the fifty outstanding females in the Justice system; becoming the first female to receive the Outstanding Regional Director Award; being listed in Who's Who in American Women and in the Midwest; and being selected in 1998 as National Mother of the Year by the Ashley Steward Retail Association. In addition, she was responsible for the first nationwide agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance when problems between races and cultures arose during national disasters; mediation of community concern regarding police practices in Paterson, New Brunswick, Montclair and Newark, New Jersey; mediation between African American and Jewish faculty at Kean University; and many other achievements. She received a B.S. in English Education from Ohio State University and an M.A. in Speech Communication from Montclair State University. She has lectured at Yale University, conducted classes at Passaic Community College, taught Conflict Resolution in Moscow and established conflict resolution programs in St. Petersburg and Komi, Russia. Currently, she is an adjunct instructor at Montclair State University.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to a remarkable public servant, Patricia Campbell Glenn, for her highly successful work and in wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 8, 2000, I was unavoidably late in returning from California. If I had been here to vote, I would have voted "yea" for all of the following:

H.R. 1827—Government Waste Corrections Act; H.R. 2952—To redesignate the Facility of the U.S. Postal Service in Greenville, South Carolina as the Keith D. Oglesby Station; H.R. 3018—To designate the U.S. Postal Office in Charleston, South Carolina as the Marybelle H. Howe Post Office; S. Con. Res. 91—Congratulating the Republic of Lithuania on the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of its

March 9, 2000

independence from the rule of the former Soviet Union; and H.J. Res. 86—Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Korean War and the service by members of the Armed Forces.

HONORING NANNIE PARKS ROGERS AS THE 1999 NCNW APPRECIATION AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the New Haven National Council of Negro Women in posthumously honoring my good friend, Nannie Parks Rogers, with their annual appreciation award.

Each year the NCNW of New Haven recognizes outstanding men, women, and youngsters for their efforts on behalf of our community. These annual awards honor individuals who have reached out to the community and dedicated themselves to the continued improvement and enhancement of Greater New Haven.

Nan Rogers was an extraordinary figure who enriched the lives of everyone she touched. Spending more than forty years in the field of education, Nan worked closely with people as both an educator and counselor. Her dedication and strong belief in the vital importance of education led her through an unparalleled career. Nan valued the opportunities her career offered—from young children beginning their formal education, to teens as they made their choices about life, and finally to adults returning to college and restructuring their lives.

A longtime resident of the Newhallville neighborhood in New Haven, Nan was an active member in many organizations throughout the city. Among the myriad of activities she was involved in were her memberships in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, the National Council of Negro Women, the Mary B. Ashford Adult Services Center, the NAACP, the Business and Professional Women's Club, and the Inner City Day Care Council, Inc. Nan is also credited as a founder of the African American Women's Agenda, a community based group whose goal is to address the issues affecting African American women and to ensure that their voices are heard, both locally and nationally. Nan was a true advocate for her community, striving to enhance the quality of life for our children and families.

Sadly, Nan passed away in March of this year at the age of 70. I am fortunate enough to have known Nan and blessed to have called her my friend. I would like to extend my sincere sympathies to her daughter, Robin, grandchildren, Marcus and Sarah, family, and friends. Nan will certainly be missed but her contributions will not be forgotten. I am truly honored to stand today to pay tribute to Nannie Parks Rogers as the recipient of the 1999 NCNW Appreciation Award Recipient.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENIOR CITIZENS FREEDOM TO WORK ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly support H.R. 5, The Senior Citizens Freedom to Work Act of 2000. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this worthwhile piece of legislation.

This objective of this bill is simple and straightforward: it would totally remove the future earnings limit for working seniors who receive Social Security.

For too many years, those senior citizens, aged 65–69, who chose to continue to work, have had their Social Security benefits deducted by one dollar for every three dollars earned once their earnings went over the limit. For many years, this limit was \$12,500 annually.

The 104th Congress made a much needed change in 1997, by raising the limit to \$30,000 by 2002.

I have long believed that more needs to be done on this issue. Ever since coming to Washington, in the 93rd Congress, I have introduced legislation to either raise the earnings limit, or eliminate it, altogether. I believe that repeal of this regulation is one of the most effective things we in Congress can do to show our seniors that we recognize the value of their contributions to both our Nation's economy and to the character of our individual communities.

The Social Security earnings limit is a relic from the Great Depression era, when concern over mass unemployment led many to believe that the imposition of the limit would prevent retired individuals from competing with younger workers for scarce jobs. While the limit's utility in the 1930s is debatable, most everyone agrees with the argument that it has no place in today's work environment.

The earnings limit only serves to discourage seniors from working and diminishes their potential impact on society. It is a condescending regulation that conveys the message that seniors have nothing to contribute and are better off not serving in the work force. In doing this, it both reduces the standard of living for working seniors, as well as rob the country of the valuable experience and workplace skills of those senior citizens who, because of the earnings limit, forego returning to the workplace.

Thanks to revolutionary advances in the field of medicine, Americans are living longer than ever before in our Nation's history. Consequently, senior citizens are the fastest growing component of our country's population.

Moreover, the U.S. economy is currently running at very close to full employment. While the unemployment rate is at a historic low, demand for finished goods shows no signs of abating. Employers recognize this, and are searching for ways to address this challenge. Many have turned to senior citizens, who are a vast, largely untapped, labor resource. Consequently, recruitment of senior citizens by private industry is on the rise, and shows more signs of increasing in the future.

2677

Given this, it simply makes no sense to maintain an arbitrary earnings limit that penalizes those individuals of retirement age who wish to continue being productive members of the work force. Nobody who wishes to enjoy retirement should be forced to work, however, those who do work should not be unfairly penalized for doing so.

Our senior citizens have their own unique and invaluable contributions to make to our society as a whole. I have long encouraged my colleagues in Congress to recognize and reward this initiative, rather than penalize it by clinging to outmoded regulatory relics.

For far too long, the poor budgetary environment made repeal of this limit a practical impossibility. Today's environment of growing surpluses has knocked away this last obstacle to reform. We need to seize this opportunity to provide simple, but effective reform for our working seniors.

Moreover, while important, the repeal of this limit should only be the first step towards improving the economic welfare of our senior citizens. Congress still needs to repeal the earnings limit for those seniors aged 62–64, and this debate should be the prelude to a full review of the taxes levied on our senior citizens, with the goal of repealing all taxes on Social Security benefits, which in effect are a discriminatory form of double taxation.

I am pleased to see that the President has finally stated his public support for the elimination of the earnings limit, and I commend my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee for their diligence and attention to this issue in their recent favorable consideration of this bill.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this timely, and important legislation.

HONORING THE SOUTH BAY WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to some exceptional women from my district being honored tomorrow as the South Bay Women of the Year. The honorees are Mrs. Katharine Ward Clemmer, the Honorable Katy Geissert, Ms. Jill Gomes, Mrs. Renee Henry, Mrs. Pamela Kenoyer, Mrs. Elaine Klessig, Mrs. Mary Jane Schoenheider, and Mrs. Darla Voorhees.

This honor is given to several remarkable women each year by the Switzer Center School and Clinical Services located in the City of Torrance, which serves children with learning, emotional, or social challenges. The 2000 South Bay Women of the Year Awards are presented to women who are making a difference in the lives of others. These individuals are being recognized for selflessly giving their time and efforts to improve the community. They are making an impact in the lives of others, not because they have to, but because they want to.

I thank the Switzer Center for recognizing these women and their significant accomplishments. I commend these eight women for their